

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1361

By Crider

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Tim Richmond.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor the memory of those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person was Tim Richmond, who comported himself with the utmost integrity throughout the duration of his thirty-four years; and

WHEREAS, a native of Ashland, Ohio, the gifted Mr. Richmond excelled at the sports of football and track during high school; a man of many talents, he was able to fly airplanes by the age of fourteen; and

WHEREAS, by his twenty-first year, Tim Richmond had discovered his true passion in the form of automobile racing; he first started working in the industry by performing maintenance on the race cars owned by Dave Shoemaker; and

WHEREAS, a skilled driver, he began racing super modified cars at Sandusky, Ohio, where he earned Rookie of the Year in 1977; he soon followed up that success with the 1978 Rookie of the Year Award in the United States Auto Club sprint car series; and

WHEREAS, continuing on open wheel racing circuits, Mr. Richmond raced in the 1980 Indianapolis 500, where he finished ninth and won Indy 500 Rookie of the Year; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Tim Richmond commenced stock car racing in the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR); in his first seasons, he won two races and finished in the top five seven times, placing twenty-sixth in the Winston Cup points standings; and

WHEREAS, in 1983 as a part of Raymond Beadle's Blue Max team, Mr. Richmond earned a spot in the top ten points standings, and by 1986, he was the focal point of Rick

Hendrick's team, driving the #25 Folgers Chevrolet Monte Carlo; he won seven times in 1986 and finished in the top five thirteen times and in the top ten seventeen times; and

WHEREAS, diagnosed with AIDS in 1986 and prevented from racing by NASCAR, Tim Richmond retired to West Palm Beach, Florida, where he passed away in 1989; he lived life with such vivacity and joy and his character was so admirable that Rick Hendrick stated, "If you had your choice of spending a day with any driver who'd ever raced in NASCAR, you'd spend it with him"; and

WHEREAS, in 185 Winston Cup starts, Mr. Richmond scored thirteen wins and fourteen poles. His success and abilities were so great that not only was he inducted into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame in 2002, but Kyle Petty also remarked, "Richmond had more talent in his little finger than a lot of us ever had, period"; his life served as the basis of the hit movie *Days of Thunder*; and

WHEREAS, Tim Richmond, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplified the type of community leader whom Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts and high standards, whether in the athletic arena or daily life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Tim Richmond for his substantial legacy as a race car driver, as we fondly remember his unswerving dedication to excellence in all his endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.